

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2009

The Honorable John Murtha
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol H-149
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable C.W. Young
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2407 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murtha and Ranking Member Young:

As Members of Congress committed to improving the health of children and adults in the United States, we respectfully request your support for the treatment and cure of Fragile X Syndrome and its related conditions. Specifically, we are seeking:

- Appropriations Report Language requesting that the Department of Defense:
 - Expand the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) to include Fragile X Syndrome and Associated Disorders in the eligible research topics for the FY 2010 portfolio.

Fragile X Syndrome is a genetic disorder that causes behavioral, developmental and language disabilities across a person's lifespan. It is linked to mutations on the X chromosome, and is the most common inherited form of intellectual disabilities. Fragile X has also been linked to early menopause (FXPOI) in female carriers and FXTAS, a Parkinson's like condition in older male carriers. Over 100,000 Americans have Fragile X Syndrome and over one-million Americans carry a Fragile X mutation and are at risk of developing a Fragile X-associated disorder.

Expanding the PRMRP to include Fragile X Syndrome would provide the resources needed to translate basic scientific findings into viable treatments for Fragile X-associated disorders.

While we understand the challenges the Subcommittee faces in prioritizing requests, we believe support for enhancing Fragile X research and public health activities is imperative given the significant impact Fragile X has on families and communities across the country and the great potential for effective treatments. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bill Delahunt
Member of Congress



Phil Hare
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD)
CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) – The DoD is strongly encouraged to expand the PRMRP to include Fragile X Syndrome and Associated Disorders in the eligible research topics for FY 2010 portfolio. These funds will advance translational research into Fragile X Syndrome and Associated Disorders, including research examining the relationship among Fragile X syndrome, autism, and autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

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